

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 306**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Kehoe**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Hancock, Harman, Laird, and**  
**Nation)**  
(Coauthors: Senators Alpert and Romero)

February 6, 2003

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An act to amend Section 521 of, and to repeal and add Section 523 of, the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 306, as introduced, Kehoe. Water meters.

Existing law requires the installation of a water meter as a condition of water service provided pursuant to a connection installed on and after January 1, 1992. Existing law declares that the state goal for measurement of water use is the achievement, on or before January 1, 1992, of the installation of water meters on all new water service connections after that date to systems owned or operated by a water purveyor.

This bill would repeal the provision relating to the state goal for water measurement. The bill would require a water purveyor, on or before January 1, 2008, to install a water meter on service connections to residential and nonagricultural commercial buildings constructed prior to January 1, 1992.

The bill would require a water purveyor, on and after January 1, 2009, but subject to a certain exception, to charge customers for water based on the actual volume of deliveries, as measured by a water meter. The bill, on or before January 1, 2009, would require a water purveyor that applies for financial assistance from the state for a wastewater treatment

project or a water use efficiency project, or a permit for a new or expanded water supply, to demonstrate that the applicant charges customers in accordance with that requirement.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 521 of the Water Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 521. (a) The Legislature further finds and declares that water  
4 furnished or used without any method of determination of the  
5 quantities of water used by the person to whom the water is  
6 furnished has caused, and will continue to cause, waste and  
7 unreasonable use of water, and that this waste and unreasonable  
8 use should be identified, isolated, and eliminated.

9 (b) *Water metering and volumetric pricing are among the most*  
10 *efficient conservation tools, providing information on how much*  
11 *water is being used and pricing to encourage conservation.*

12 (c) *Without water meters it is impossible for homeowners and*  
13 *businesses to know how much water they are using, thereby*  
14 *inhibiting conservation, punishing those who conserve, and*  
15 *rewarding those who waste water.*

16 (d) *Existing law requires the installation of a water meter as a*  
17 *condition of water service provided pursuant to a connection*  
18 *installed on or after January 1, 1992, but the continuing*  
19 *widespread absence of water meters and the lack of volumetric*  
20 *pricing is a wasteful and unreasonable use of the state's water.*

21 SEC. 2. Section 523 of the Water Code is repealed.

22 ~~523. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the~~  
23 ~~California goal for measurement of water use is the achievement~~  
24 ~~by January 1, 1992, of the installation of water meters on all new~~  
25 ~~water service connections after that date to systems and facilities~~  
26 ~~owned, operated, or under the management or control of a water~~  
27 ~~purveyor, which meters will measure the quantity of water~~  
28 ~~furnished or delivered through each system or facility to each new~~  
29 ~~user of the water.~~

30 SEC. 3. Section 523 is added to the Water Code, to read:

31 523. (a) On or before January 1, 2008, a water purveyor shall  
32 install a water meter on service connections to all residential and



1 nonagricultural commercial buildings constructed prior to January  
2 1, 1992, in their service area.

3 (b) Unless a contract that was executed prior to January 1,  
4 2004, provides otherwise, on and after January 1, 2009, a water  
5 purveyor shall charge customers for water based on the actual  
6 volume of deliveries, as measured by a water meter.

7 (c) On and after January 1, 2009, a water purveyor that applies  
8 for financial assistance from the state for a wastewater treatment  
9 project or a water use efficiency project, or for a permit for a new  
10 or expanded water supply, shall demonstrate that the applicant  
11 meets the requirements of subdivision (b).

